

# Paper/cardboard waste recovery in Victoria 2007–08

The Victorian Recycling Industry Annual Survey 2007–08 collects information on the Victorian reprocessing industry via a voluntary survey. Victorian reprocessors of secondary-use materials (waste material) report on their reprocessing activities over the financial year. The survey conducted during November 2008, sought data from 88 Victorian reprocessors. A total of 66 out of the 88 reprocessors provided data for the survey, representing a 75% response rate. It is estimated that these responses covered 90% of the industry by tonne of recovered waste material. An additional 34 plastic reprocessors surveyed for the 2008 *National Plastics Recycling Survey*<sup>1</sup> were also included in the report findings.

For more information or to download a copy of the Victorian Recycling Industry Annual Survey 2007–08 report, please refer to the Sustainability Victoria website [www.sustainability.vic.gov.au](http://www.sustainability.vic.gov.au)

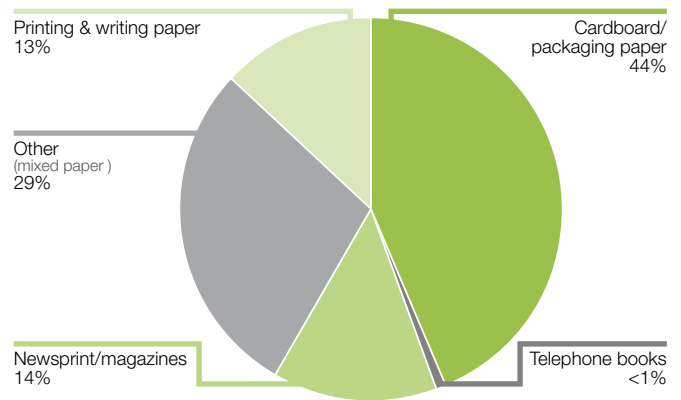
The information presented is an extract of the paper and cardboard waste recovery figures from the report.

## Recovery and trends

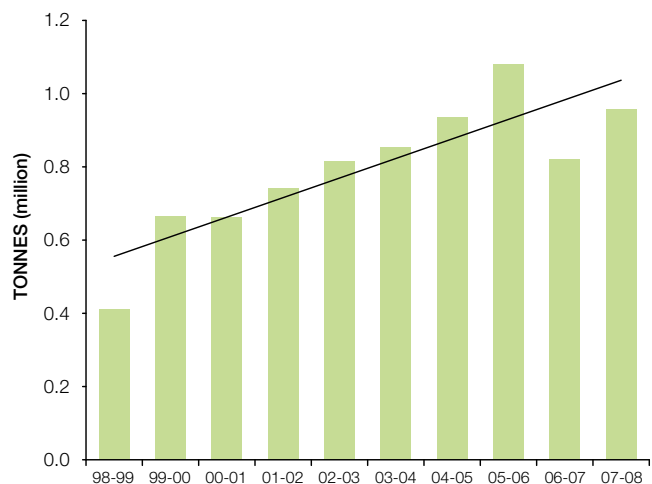
The total amount of wastepaper recovered for recycling in Victoria has increased by 16% to around 950,000 tonnes. Paper and cardboard packaging represent the largest proportion representing 44% of all waste paper recovered (see Figure 1).

All waste paper categories, except telephone books (down 50%), reported an increase in quantities collected. The largest increase occurred in printing & writing paper, which grew by 70%. Other (mixed paper) category increased by 17% to just over 275,000 tonnes in 2007–08 and accounted for 29% of total paper and cardboard recovery.

<sup>1</sup> 2008 *National Plastics Recycling Survey*, report to the Plastics and Chemicals Industry Association



**Figure 1** Composition of paper / cardboard waste (by weight) recovered for reprocessing, Victoria 2007–08



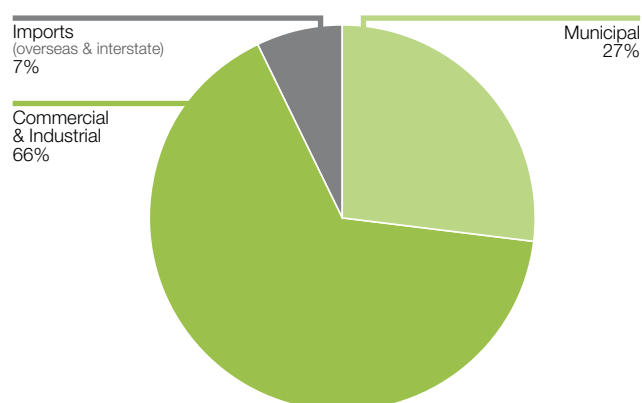
**Figure 2** Paper / cardboard waste recovered for reprocessing, Victoria 1998–99 to 2007–08

Note: Figures for periods 2004–05 and 2005–06 have been over reported but these amounts have not been able to be quantified

## Sources of recyclables

The largest proportion (66%) of wastepaper received for reprocessing in 2007–08 was sourced from the commercial and industrial sector (see Figure 3). Wastepaper sourced from the municipal sector (kerbside recycling) decreased from 33% to 27%.

Retailers and industrial facilities are important suppliers of cardboard and paper packaging to reprocessors, while most printing and writing paper comes from commercial collections from offices and schools. Other (mixed paper), by contrast, was sourced predominantly from the municipal sector. These materials are mostly discarded in the home and are readily retrieved from the kerbside recycling system.



**Figure 3** Source sectors of paper / cardboard waste (by weight) received for reprocessing, Victoria 2007–08

	Cardboard/ paper packaging	Newsprint/ magazines	Printing & writing paper	Telephone books	Othre (mixed paper)	Total paper/cardboard waste recovered
Tonnes ('000)						
1998-99	271	137	-	-	-	408
1999-00	490	173	-	-	-	663
2000-01*	388	133	141	-	-	662
2001-02*	332	187	136	-	91	746
2002-03	414	196	174	10	24	818
2003-04	366	194	246	10	34	850
2004-05	376	200	262	9	90	937
2005-06	461	232	238	10	146	1,087
2006-07	389	122	73	2	236	822
2007-08	422	132	124	1	275	954

**Table 1** Paper and cardboard waste material recovered in Victoria for reprocessing over the past 10 years, Victoria 1998–99 to 2007–08

\* Evaluation and cross-referencing of reported and actual data has led to an adjustment of previous financial year data.